



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hiroshi NOMURA et al.

Confirmation No.: 2632

Appl. No. : 10/776,238

Group Art Unit : 2873

Filed : February 12, 2004

Examiner : MACK, R.L.

For : RETRACTING MECHANISM OF A ZOOM LENS BARREL

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

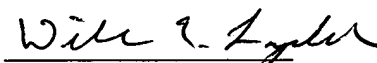
Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street S.
Customer Window, Mail Stop _____
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir :

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on October 6, 2004 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned
at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroshi NOMURA et al.


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December 28, 2004
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